

# Historical Origins of the Opioid Crisis

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University at Buffalo (SUNY)

**KNOCKED ASLEEP!**

## **CLERGYMAN DIES AT BATHS.**

**Rev. Mr. Gwilym Believed to Have  
Taken Overdose of Veronal.**

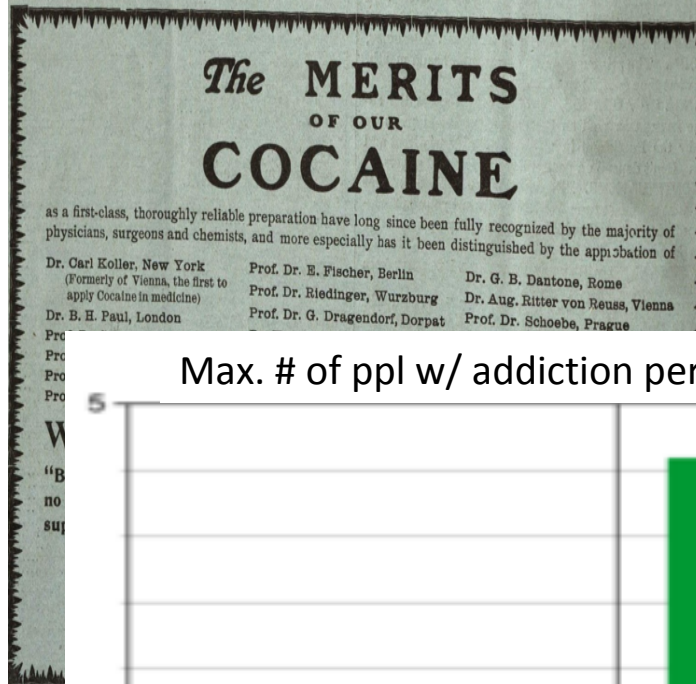
## **DIES OF VERONAL OVERDOSE.**

**Wife of E. Henry Simmons, Stock**

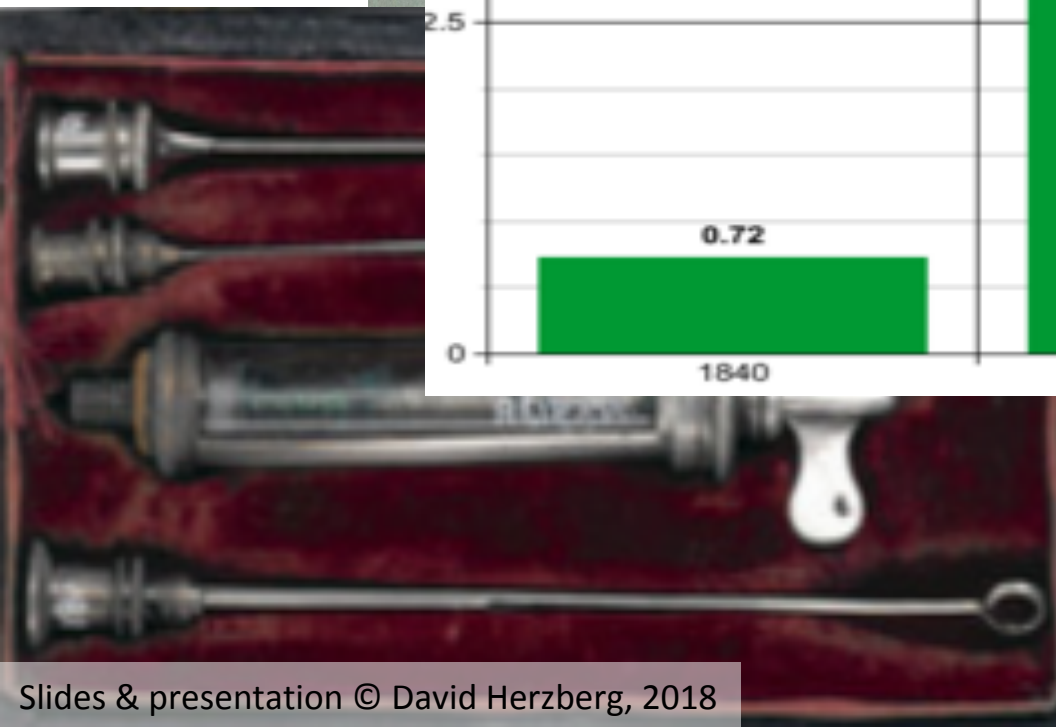
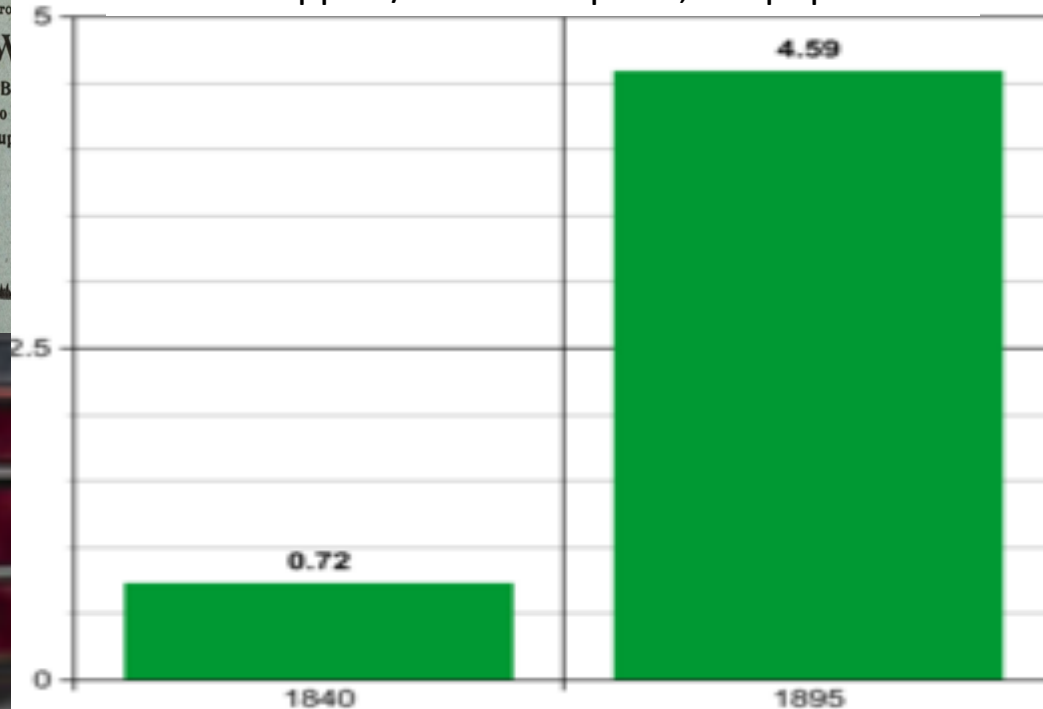
# **DEATH FROM POISON STARTS AN INQUIRY**

**Mrs. Blackburn, Owner of Gown  
Shop, Dies in Hotel Commo-  
dore After Taking Veronal.**



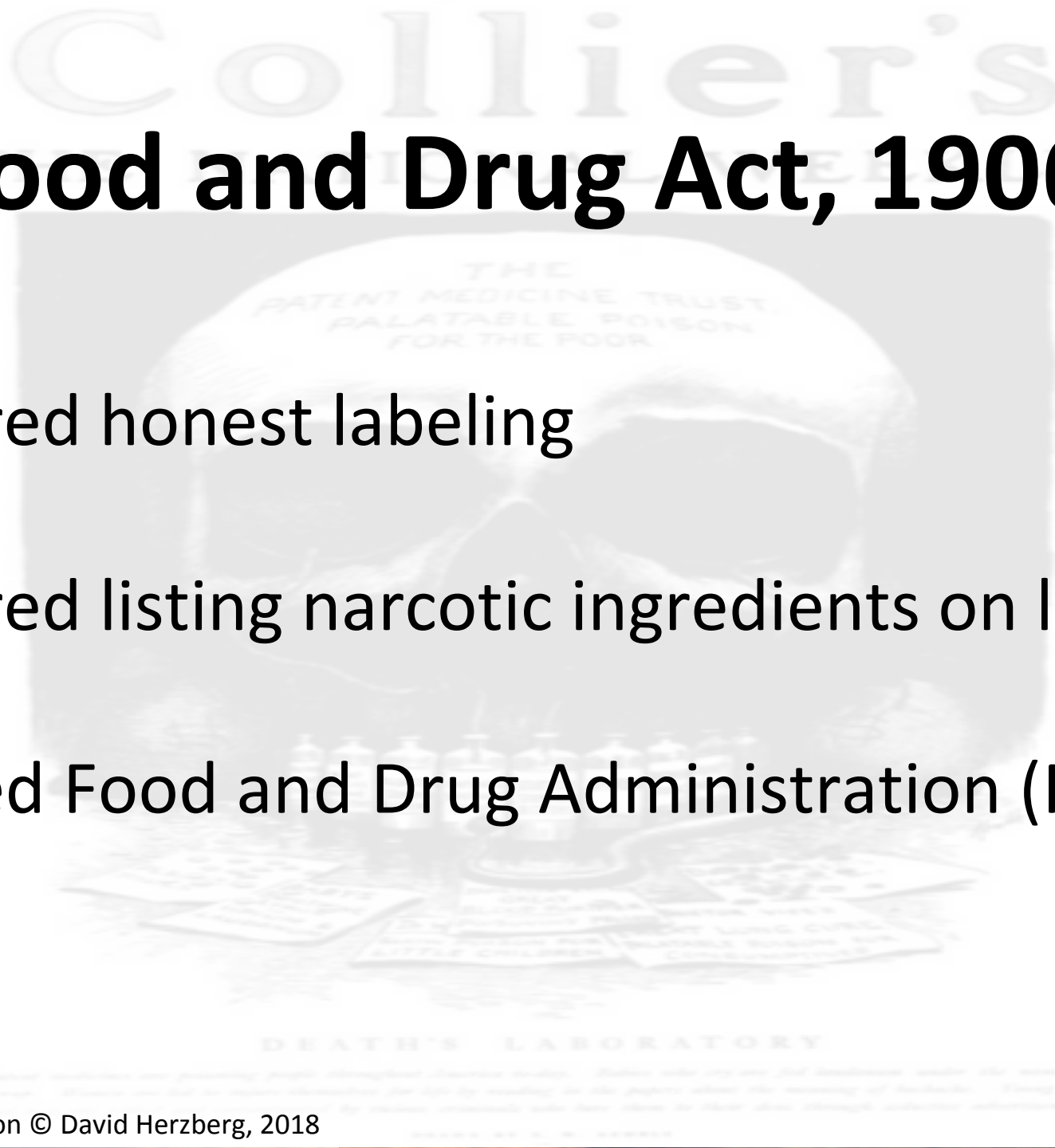


Max. # of ppl w/ addiction per 1,000 population



# Food and Drug Act, 1906

- Required honest labeling
- Required listing narcotic ingredients on label
- Created Food and Drug Administration (FDA)





# TYPES OF COCAINE SELLERS AND VICTIMS.

Sketches made by a Tribune artist in the haunts of the users of the drug.



THE HEROIN SALE

one of them noticed it, he called it to the attention of his friend with a laugh at "that dope fiend."



THE WOMAN-PIESSINGER.



"THE OHIO KID"

POODLE DOG A "COKE" SIGN  
USED BY WOMAN DEALER



# NEGRO COCAINE "FIENDS" ARE A NEW SOUTHERN MENACE

## Harrison Act, 1914

- Criminalized non-medical narcotics use
- Established the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN), which...
- Demonized & punished "junkies" and "dope fiends"
- Created command economy in legal narcotics



# UNITED STATES NARCOTIC FARM





1906 Food and  
Drug Act (→FDA)

Truthful labeling

“MEDICINES”  
*therapeutic, legal*

“PATIENTS”  
*rational, health-seeking*

1914 Harrison Anti-Narcotic  
Act (→FBN)

Nonmedical use = criminal

“DOPE”  
*addictive, illicit*

“DOPE FIENDS”  
*irrational, pleasure-seeking*

## Ounces morphine equivalent per capita

80

70

60

50

40

30

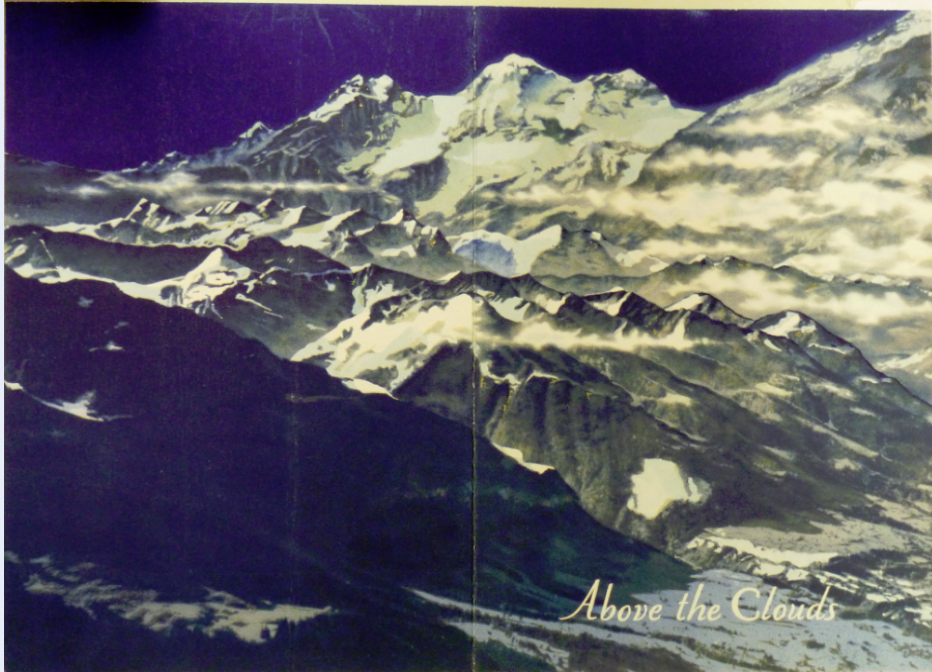
20

10

0

1870 1873 1876 1879 1882 1885 1888 1891 1894 1897 1900 1903 1906 1909 1912 1915 1918 1921 1924 1927 1930 1933 1936 1939 1942 1945 1948 1951 1954 1957 1960 1963 1966 1969 1972 1975 1978 1981 1984 1987 1990

— import — mfg



*Above the Clouds*

WHEN the physician has made his diagnosis and selected a definite remedy for a definite purpose, "the winds of chance" should not be allowed to interfere with the patient's receiving the particular drug which has been prescribed.

Life itself has depended at times on the respect shown for the inviolability of the physician's prescription. In filling it, "equivalents" cannot be substituted with impunity; products alleged to be chemically identical may be inferior therapeutically.

When you order Veronal, the inviolability of your prescription is a matter of deep concern. Of course you realize that twenty-eight years of clinical experience have thoroughly proved the value of Veronal as a safe and reliable soporific and sedative.

Hence, you are justified in insisting that your patient receive Veronal, and not some chemical "equivalent."

Veronal is indicated for nervous insomnia, alcoholism and drug habituation; also to calm mental excitement in the psychoses and during the course of acute and chronic diseases.

*Dose:* For adults 5 to 10 grains, or 2 to 4 teaspoonfuls of Elixir of Veronal.

*How Supplied:* Tablets of 5 grains, tubes of 10 and bottles of 100, Elixir of Veronal (2 grains to the teaspoonful) in 12 oz. bottles.

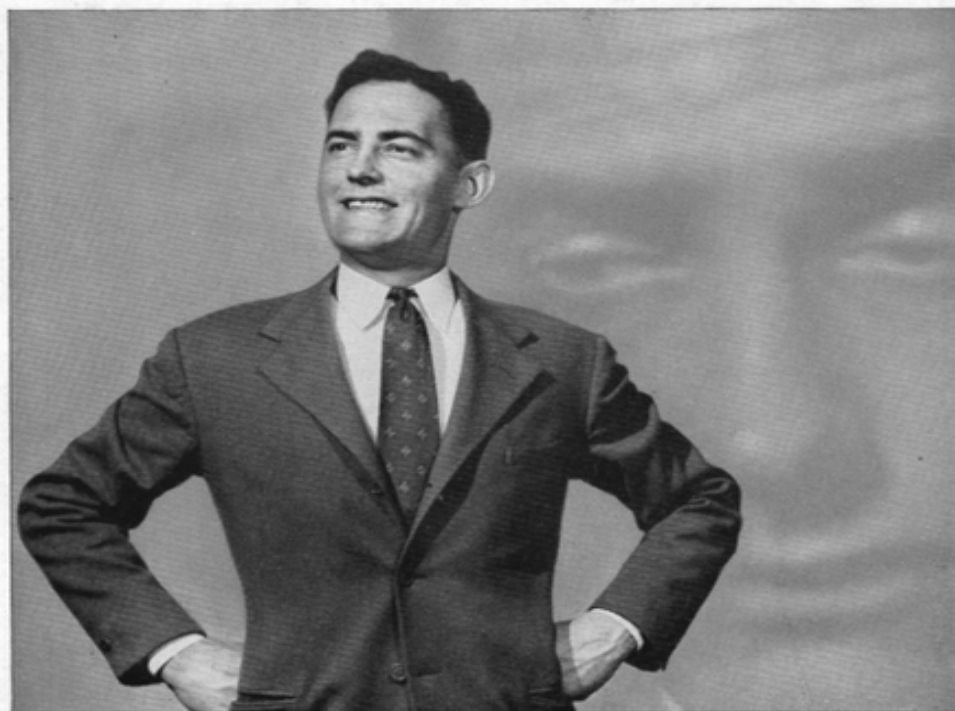
*Sample and literature on request*

WINTHROP CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC.  
170 Varick Street New York, N. Y.

**VERONAL**

Trade Mark Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

*Winthrop Quality Has No Substitute*



***"...if the individual is depressed..."***

"... if the individual is depressed or anhedonic . . . you can change his attitude . . . by physical means just as surely as you can change his digestion by distressing thought . . . *In other words, drugs and physical therapeutics are just as much psychic agents as good advice and analysis* and must be used together with these latter agents of cure."

Myerson, A.—*Anhedonia*—  
Am. J. Psychiat., July, 1922.

When this was written—in 1922—the only stimulant drugs employed in the treatment of simple depression were of limited effectiveness.

Only in the last decade has there been available—in Benzedrine Sulfate—a therapeutic weapon capable of alleviating depression, overcoming "chronic fatigue" and breaking the vicious circle of anhedonia.



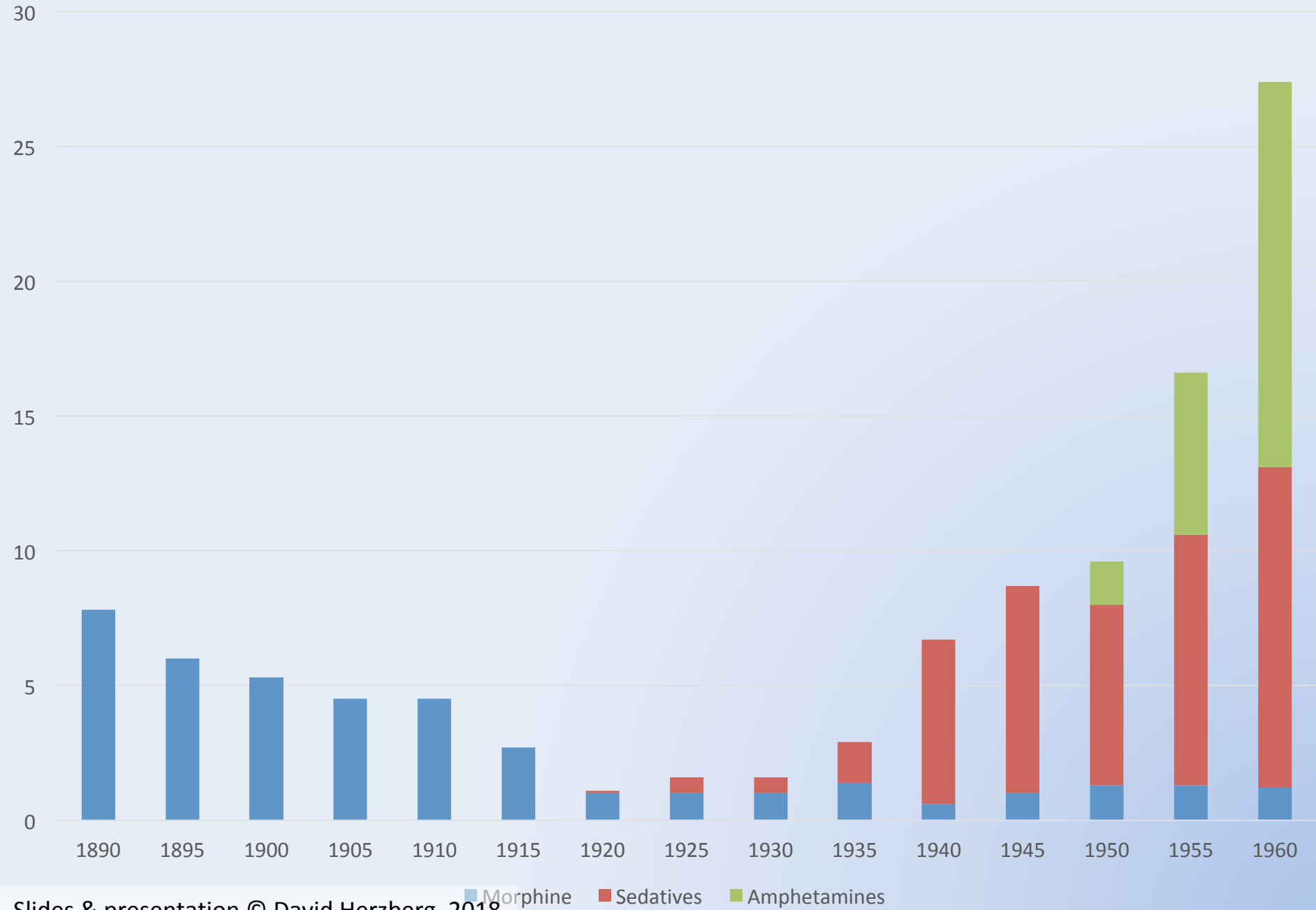
**BENZEDRINE  
SULFATE TABLETS**

(racemic amphetamine sulfate)

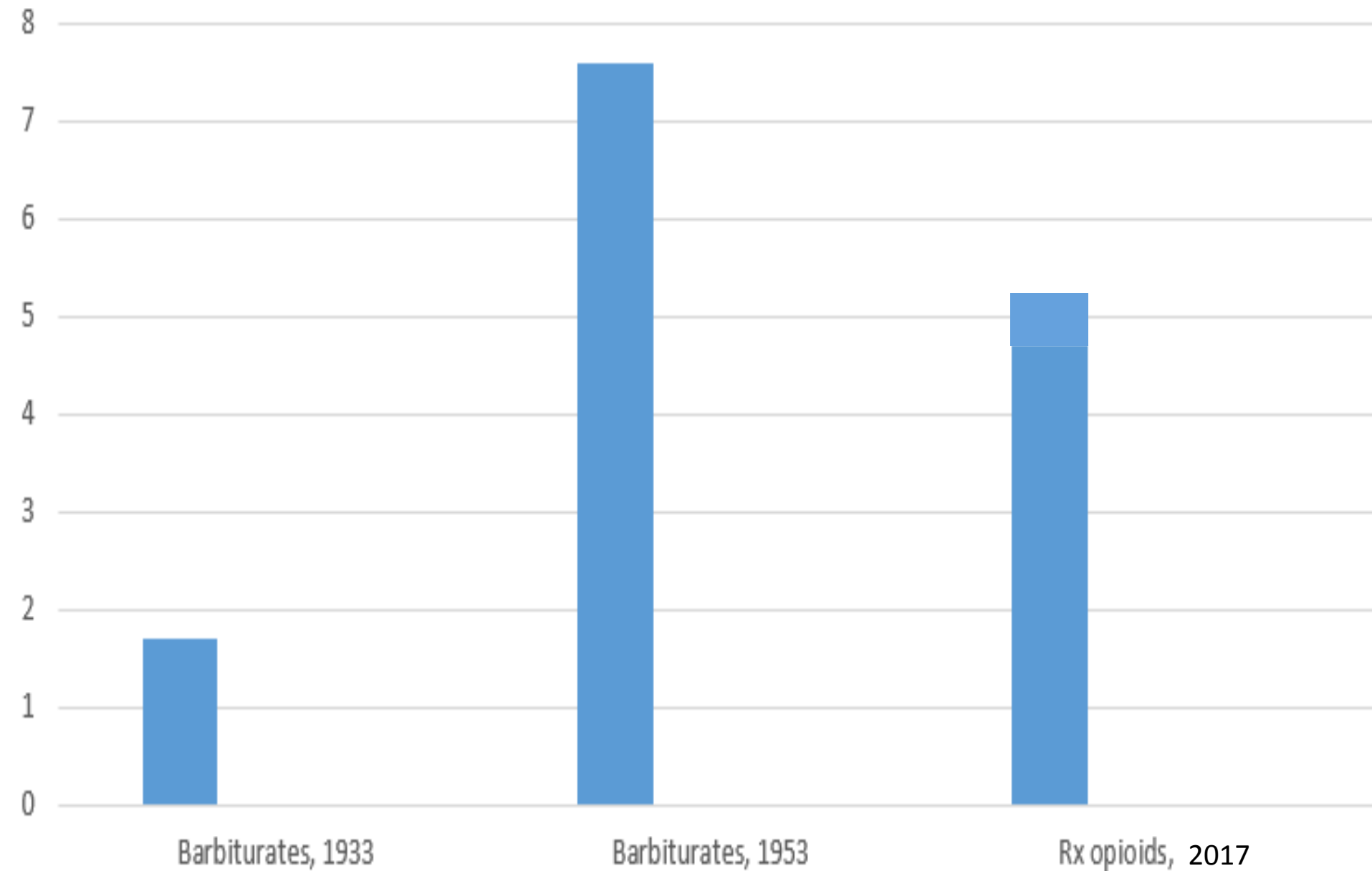
SMITH, KLINE & FRENCH LABORATORIES, PHILADELPHIA, PA.



## Annual daily doses per capita



## Overdose deaths per 100,000 population





Kiel, WI



*Q: If somebody came in and said "I just can't get going in the morning," would that be a good reason to prescribe Ritalin?*

*A: They are paying for an office call. They want relief. They don't want you to say go home and take two aspirin.*

is that bad of a drug compared to the amphetamines and the narcotics. So above twenty milligrams in my life, and So if somebody came in and said I just can't get going in the morning, would that be a good reason to give ritalin? After I spent physicals and talked with her and tried to explain to her, and explanation doesn't work all the time, you try whatever you can to give them some relief. They are there for you. They are paying for an office call. They want relief. They don't want you to say go home and take two aspirin.

Q What kind of things would you explain to the patient?

A I would try to explain why she is tired, try to find out why the fatigue; but as I told you before, ninety out of a hundred people who come in my office are fatigued.

Everyone says they are tired. This is one of the modalities you might use. I might have two patients in a year on it for that type of thing. Can't have any pain?

Q How long would you continue a patient on ritalin for fatigue?

A As long as he needed it, if it helped. If it doesn't help, then you stop and try something else.

Q Are there any dangers of addiction with ritalin?

A I have never encountered it in my practice.

Q Any other kind of dangers that ritalin could cause?

A I haven't looked at the contraindications, but I haven't



Murders, Suicides," by  
 riding, Juveniles  
 58 and 60

**EMERGENCY!**

As the Sleeping Pill Curse Grows  
and the Toll of Lives Mounts, the  
Lack of a Practical Antidote Poses  
a Tragic Problem That Cries Out for  
Stringent U. S. Regulation at the  
Barbiturate Traffic

But there is a more possible explanation. The barbiturate not only left the nerves and simply the weak, they also impair the memory. If that's true, that's

via Dave had be  
nated six times  
against his bar  
with the...

# The Devil's Capsules

Those "Harmless" Little Sleeping Pills, So Easy to Obtain, Are Gaining Victims by the Millions. Kill 10 to 20 a Day, and Have Become the Nation's Fastest Rising Menace

It all added up to something. Food and Drug Administration officials found that the drugstore was a place where a lot of business which had been dispensing barbiturates to all comers. Many of its patrons were women. More than 100 prescriptions for barbiturates had been prepared. Sales of 45,000 of the various barbiturate preparations were on the books. In this case, the government was not only getting a lead into operation. The drugs had been shipped in from manufacturers in Illinois and Tennessee, without proper labels. This, being interstate commerce, was a violation of federal narcotics statutes. The druggist was arrested and convicted and what was left of the illegal traffic was broken up. The government was able to cross state lines, nothing could have been done about it. After that, Texas prepared a law which made it illegal to sell or give out barbiturates without prescription.

**N**OTWITHSTANDING its state law, which is better than most, California has a habiturating problem with its habit, particularly acute in the Los Angeles region where the authorities are tackling it vigorously. Physicians find evidence of the growing habit in the increased pressure upon them for more and more potent and more frequent prescriptions. Dr. Carl C. Summers, Vice President of the Board of Medical Examiners of California, said recently:

"We as physicians are hard pressed by old patients just to get a prescription for some kind of sleeping tablets or capsules. Many of us have not realized that we thus may be producing a clientele of hypnotic addicts. There are many who know the dangers and refuse to prescribe. The conscientious physician must stand in his practice from such refusal." A prominent Los Angeles M.D. says:

18 "In the past year or so I have lost probably 20 patients through my refusal to continue issuing prescriptions for sleeping pills. I warn them that they are forming a habit. They don't believe me. Or, if they do, they lack the character to submit to discipline and break it. If I don't help them get the drug, someone else will."



# CAPITALISM PLUS DOPE <sup>25¢</sup> EQUALS GENOCIDE

By Michael "Cetewayo" Tabor (Political Prisoner, NY 21)  
BLACK PANTHER PARTY, U.S.A.



# OUR BODIES OUR SELVES

A COURSE BY AND FOR WOMEN



NEW PRINTING OF  
WOMEN & THEIR BODIES

40¢



The most explosive  
and influential best  
seller of the decade!

# UNSAFE AT ANY SPEED

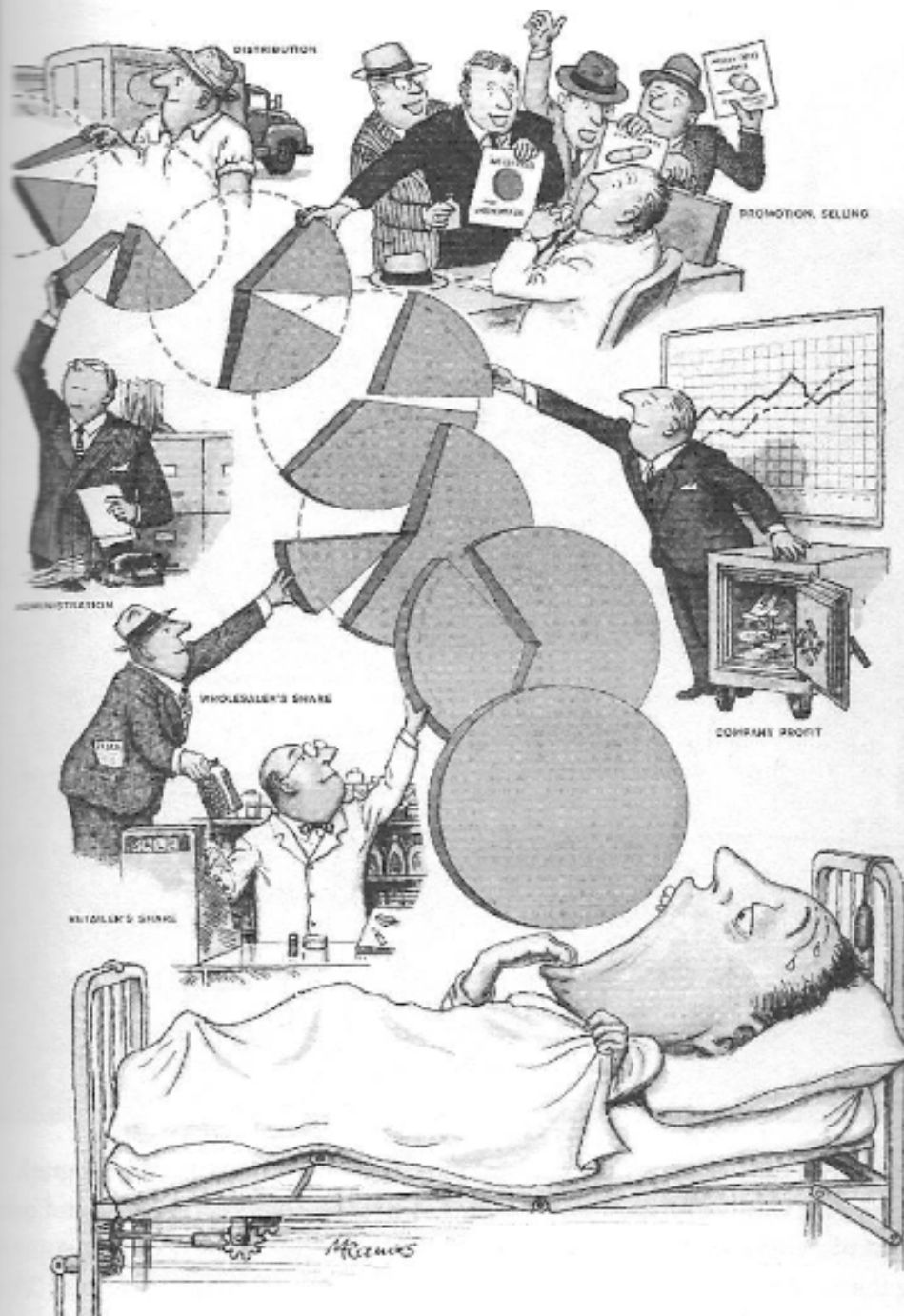
The Designed-In Dangers  
of  
the American Automobile



## RALPH NADER

"Timely, topical and terrifying... a slashing, fully documented indictment of industrial irresponsibility, governmental default, public apathy... a chilling record of the automobile industry."

ORIGINALLY  
~~\$5.95~~  
NOW ONLY  
**\$1.00**



# Controlled Substances Act, 1970

- All drugs (medical & “street”) placed on Schedule of Controlled Substances
- Drug Enforcement Administration, with new power to regulate pharmaceutical commerce

## BUT:

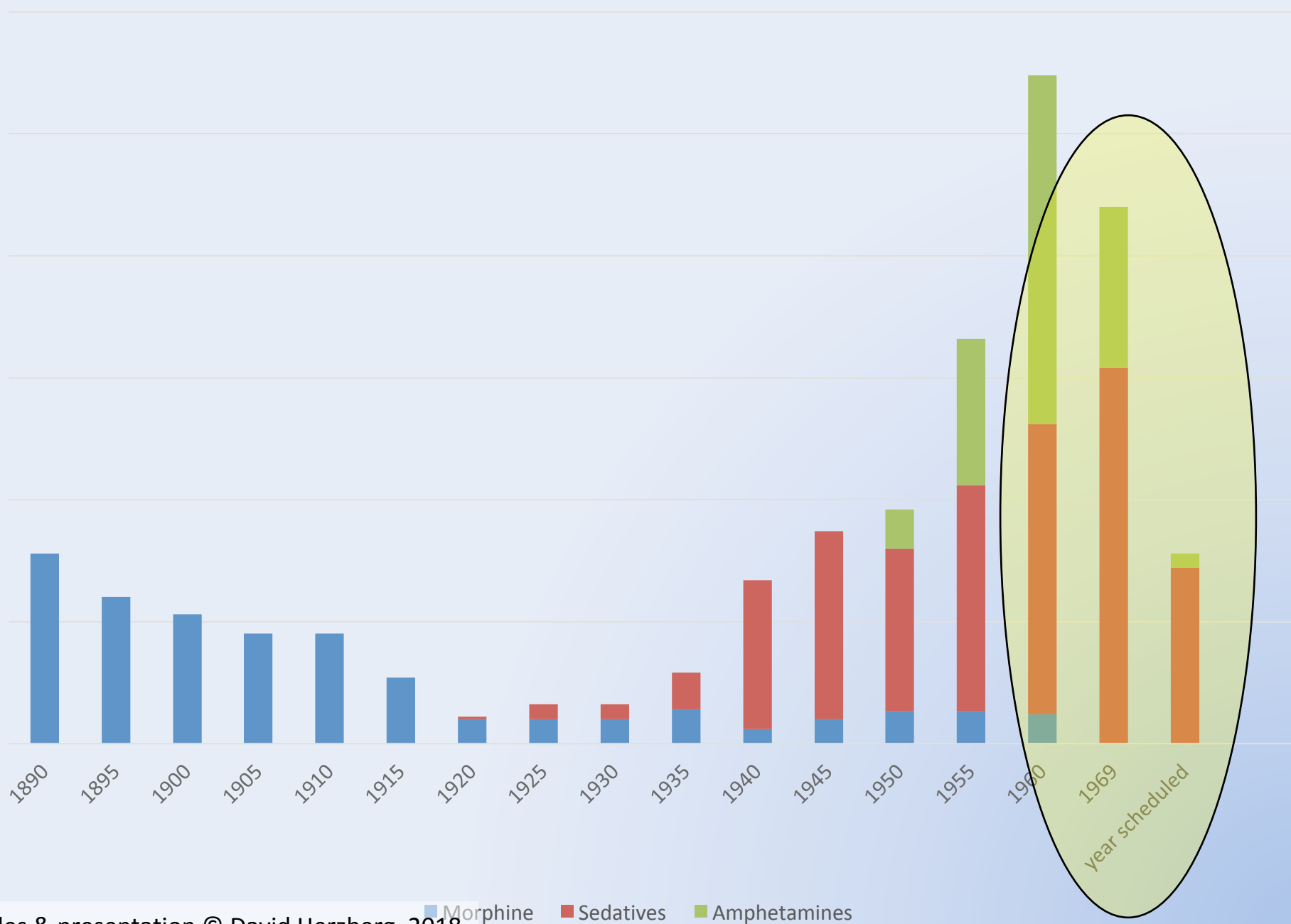
- Assumed continued use of drugs; aim was safety

## AND:

- Extended partially to “street” drug users as well
- More \$ for treatment (incl methadone) than punishment

FK at the White House Drug  
Abuse Conf., 1962

## Annual daily doses per capita





I suppose I could be considered one of the  
silent majority... One by one they are  
disappearing—our freedoms—down the  
bureaucratic drain.

Henry D. Simmons, M.D.  
Federal Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Md.

AUG 6 1973

Dear Dr. Simmons:

I suppose I could be considered one of the silent  
majority. I'm always "going" to write a letter of protest but  
never seem to get around to it. This is the first -- and only  
the first.

One by one they are disappearing -- our freedoms --  
down the bureaucratic drain.

“The wife must have these to live a decent life.”

government. Now Every month  
we must call the doctor for  
a prescription for 100 pills which  
lasts about 30 days and can  
not be refilled. It costs  
\$2.00 for each prescription plus  
the pills. The wife must have  
these to live a decent life  
The question is. In that way  
we could get these pills in  
larger amounts with one prescription.  
Any help will be appreciated.  
Thank you  
yours truly  
Eugene W. Hays





**State of the State:**

**ROCKY  
FOR  
Wants War**





# Ounces morphine equivalent per capita

80

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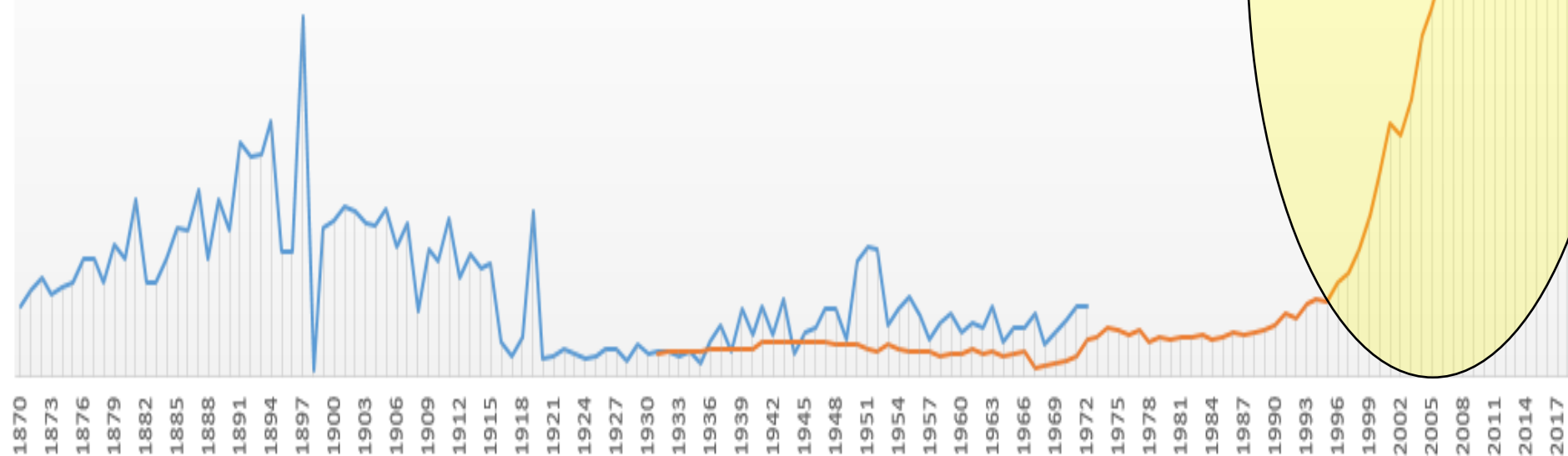
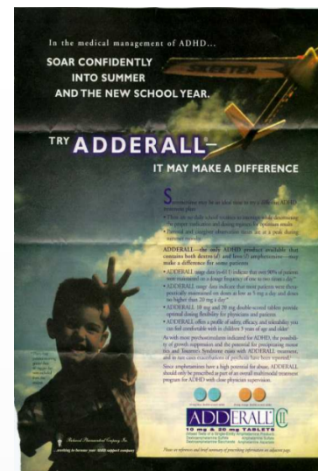
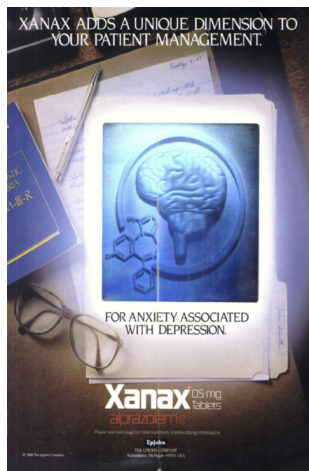
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# DRUG / MEDICINE REGULATION TIMELINE

